Continued from page 212

WaveMaker will automatically scale. Motion settings allow you to define how a logo flies on and off the screen, and its positioning. The timing of motions, plus any desired delays, are set in the Duration requester. Backgrounds can be solid, gradient, an image, or image sequence. Elements are static or animated "doodads and cool objects" that move behind the logo. Built-in elements include bars, lines, confetti, and many other shapes. Up to eight layers of elements can be used and many attributes are adjustable. Users can also take advantage of various premade animations, where all you need to identify is the logo object. Descriptive icons abound, providing quick identification of various settings. The included videotape provides handy examples of motions, elements, etc.

The program's interface is extremely logical and straightforward. Working with ARexx, you have full rendering control directly from WaveMaker if LightWave is running. WaveMaker can also create storyboard images of an animation. Additionally, up to fifteen different LightWave scenes can be set up to render sequentially.

WaveMaker gives novice LightWave users the ability to create high-quality logo animations. For videographers, it provides a coherent way to present clients with a finite number of animation possibilities in a very digestible format. You can spend as much or as little time as you want on logo animations and always obtain first-rate results. (Axiom, 1668 E. Cliff Rd., Burnsville, MN 55337-1300. 612/894-0596)

Book Reviews

Inside 3D Studio Release 3

Authors: Steven Elliot, Phillip Miller, and Gregory Pyros
Published By: New Riders Publishing
List Price: $49.95 (includes CD-ROM)
Reviewed By: Pamela Mason

Inside 3D Studio is the definitive reference book for the 3D Studio user to date. This is a big book with over one thousand pages, and it comes with a 200+ MB CD-ROM.

It addresses the importance of studying basic principles from other disciplines in laying the groundwork for designing animation that works. Among these principles are perspective drawing and working with light from the worlds of art, photography, and filmmaking to help understand the virtual camera in 3D Studio; the physics of motion; and the added dimension of time in animation. It explores how to make animation that is lifelike, not just technically accurate.

This is not a rehash of the 3D Studio manuals, it is a reference, a guide, and a springboard for creativity. It offers some fresh ideas and covers a myriad of topics. Topics that range from the basic, like a fun exercise where you make a neon sign, to the advanced, such as "Understanding Real-Time Recording of Computer-Based Animations."

The CD-ROM contains shareware graphics programs like Graphics Workshop and Paint Shop Pro plus an interesting program called Vista Pro for creating Fractal landscape fly-bys. There are various material maps, IXP IPAS routines, as well as exercises for your experimentation. I really like the few flics that they include, but it would be nice if there were more—it's a bit lean here.

I like that they mention the Achilles heel of animation, file management. They talk about a practical global approach to managing jobs and how important planning ahead is to any animation. There are some very helpful, practical hints here. If you are having a problem, or looking for another approach, *Inside 3D Studio* might be just the place to look. (New Riders Publishing, 1-800-428-5331)

New Riders' Official Internet Yellow Pages

Authors: Christine Maxwell and Czeslaw Jan Grycz
Published By: New Riders Publishing
List Price: $29.95
Review By: Kevin Savetz

If you've swum around cyberspace for more than an hour, you already know "Problem One" with the Internet—it's just too big. There is simply more stuff out there than anyone could possibly explore in a lifetime. Even when you know what you are looking for, trying to find something on the Internet is often like walking into an unindexed Library of Congress: you would have to poke your way down uncharted halls in the hope of finding what you are looking for.

Book publishers have come to our rescue in droves with a variety of Internet indexes. One popular metaphor used to index the Internet's vast holdings is the familiar Yellow Pages. *New Riders' Official Internet Yellow Pages* is one such catalog—a huge tome, weighing in at a hefty nine hundred-ish pages. It offers just what the Internet needs—a subject-based index. If you want to know where to find resources about travel, just turn to the T section. If you want to know about medical resources online, just page to the M's.

The thing that makes a book of this sort really work is quality, not quantity of information. This Yellow Pages book certainly has the quantity, but the quality isn't as exceptional: it is rather unevenly edited. For example, although this is supposed to be a subject-oriented listing, some of the listings seem to be listed by name rather than subject. Also, many items are listed in multiple places—for instance, every reference concerning "Archie" can be found both under "Archie" and under "Internet Tools," although a "see-also" reference would do nicely (and save space). Perhaps that practice makes it look like the book contains more information than it really does.

Some sections seem a little too long (for instance, a 7-page "medical" section) and others seem too small (like the 2-page "travel" index). Although this is purely a judgment call, a question of relative importance of subjects kept entering my mind while reading this book.

This index is unique in that it contains listings of some commercial services available via the Internet, that aren't strictly part of the Internet. For instance, there are many pointers to goodies on DIALOG, a pay-for-use service that is connected to the Internet. You may like this feature of the book, you may not. If you're a starving student, though, pay attention to the little "free!" icons that accompany the free stuff.

Despite its drawbacks, the book covers vast ground: geology, mathematics, religion, gay resources, abortion, Denmark, zoology, Emily Dickinson—they're all here. All in all, the *New Riders' Official Internet Yellow Pages* contains a vast amount of information—thousands of listings that will keep even the most fervent Internaut busy for months—or years. But because of its inconsistent indexing style, it works best as a book to browse rather than as an index. (New Riders Publishing, 201 W. 103rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46290) ■